

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Thursday, February 22, 2007

From: Karen McCormick

Subject: initiation of Action
Central Crude LaFourche Spill
9793 Highway 308, Lockport, LA
Latitude: 29.5898200
Longitude: -90.4435500

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	NRC 827176
Reporting Period:	2/22/2007	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	2/22/2007	Response Authority:	OPA
Mob Date:	2/22/2007	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:		Reimbursable Account #	
FPN#	E07607		

Site Description

On February 22, 2007, the National Response Center was notified of an oil spill from a 2,700 barrel above ground storage tank (tank 9195) associated with the Central Crude Valentine Facility adjacent to Bayou Lafourche in Lockport, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana (NRC No. 827176). The facility address is 9793 Highway 308, Lockport, Louisiana. The spill was a result of the failure of a four inch flexible hose used to transfer crude oil from the oil storage tank through a pump into a pipeline. The facility operator began transferring oil from tank 9195 at 0130 hours on the morning of 22 February, 2007. The operator discovered spilled oil in tank 9195 secondary containment at 0530 on the same day. Oil from tank 9195 seeped from its secondary containment, into an adjacent tank's secondary containment through a storm water drainage valve. The oil then traveled to the secondary containment storm water discharge valve. The valve was closed, however; the soil surrounding the piping and valve leading from the interior of the secondary containment to an adjacent canal had eroded. This provided the oil a pathway from the secondary containment into the canal. The canal begins at the facility and terminates approximately 150 feet to the south into Bayou Lafourche. Oil from the facility entered Bayou Lafourche, a tidally influenced, navigable waterway of the United States. The operator terminated transfer of oil through the failed hose and notified the facility manager who activated the facility's response contractor, Environmental Safety and Health, Inc. (ES&H). The operator closed the valve between the secondary containment units, and placed onsite boom across the canal mouth in an attempt to prevent additional oil from reaching the bayou. The facility operator estimates that approximately 350 barrels (bbls) of crude oil was discharged through the broken hose, of which 250 bbls remained within the secondary containment units, 50 bbls was contained within the canal, and 50 bbls entered Bayou Lafourche. ES&H personnel arrived at the spill scene on February 22, 2007 at 0900 and initiated containment and recovery activities. The spill impacted the 150 feet of the canal and approximately 1.1 miles of Bayou Lafourche.

Due to the proximity of the spill to the United States Coast Guard MST 3 in Houma, LA and the impact to a navigable waterway, two USCG representatives, Petty Officers Hendry and Ariail, responded to the spill scene at 0830 on 22 February 2007. Upon arrival of EPA representatives, the USCG provided the representatives with a briefing of events and transferred oversight responsibilities to the EPA and departed the spill scene.

Current Activities

On 22 February 2007, EPA representatives mobilized to the incident site to perform oil spill response activities and meet with USCG and RP representatives. Site representatives included; United States Coast Guard, Central Crude, Plains Marketing, and ES&H. Central Crude leases and operates the facility from Plains Marketing.

Central Crude has mobilized 4 facilities personnel and 4 vacuum trucks with operators. Central Crude is utilizing two of the facilities personnel and two vacuum trucks to remove oil from the secondary containment and transfer it to 400 bbl separation tanks in the rear of the facility. At the completion of the days work activities Central Crude has recovered approximately 200-225 bbls of oil from the secondary containment and halted all discharge of oil into the canal.

ES&H is currently utilizing 12 field personnel and 4 water vessels to conduct containment and clean up operations. ES&H has deployed approximately 2,000 feet of hard boom and 1,000 feet of adsorbent boom. Hard boom has been set across Bayou Lafourche (the Bayou is approximately 400' wide in the spill affected area) approximately 1.1 miles down stream from the spill site at the farthest point at which oil was detected to prevent further contamination to the bayou and shorelines. Additional sections of hard boom have been deployed across the bayou 0.75 miles downstream, at a location of significant oil, and at the immediate upstream facility border, to prevent tidally or wind affected oil from traveling in that direction. ES&H has contacted USCG officials and requested them to announce a maritime hazard in the area and prevent boat traffic in the 1.1 mile corridor for 22 and 23 February 2007. Adsorbent boom and additional sections of hard boom have been set at locations along the shoreline where significant pooling of oil has been detected. ES&H began removal of oil from the canal utilizing two vacuum trucks, a drum skimmer and 2 personnel. Recovered oil is transferred into the Central Crude separation tanks. At the completion of the days work activities, ES&H has recovered approximately 30 bbls of oil from the canal, deployed approximately 3,000 feet of boom, and staged an additional 1,000 feet of boom to be deployed on the morning of 23 February 2007.

Planned Removal Actions

RP clean up contractors will continue containment, clean up and recovery operations. Projected completion date has not been established. ES&H will mobilize additional oil skimmer equipment to the site in the morning to assist with the recovery of oil from the bayou.

Next Steps

EPA representatives will return to the site on 23 February 2007 to document response activities and communicate that information to the OSC.

Key Issues

- Spill affected Bayou Lafourche a tidally influenced navigable waterway of the US.
- Shorelines of the bayou are comprised of cord grass and reeds making recovery of oil from the vegetated areas difficult.

- Significant boat operations will be necessary for recovery.
- The bayou has been closed to recreational and commercial boat traffic.
- Potential for impact to wildlife.

www.epaosc.org/centralcrude